



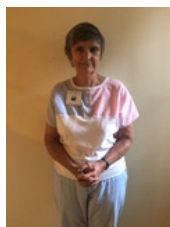
THE VOTER

Quarterly Newsletter

A Message From The President

By Eleanor Green

It's a real pleasure for our League to have, once again, a newsletter highlighting our numerous activities, and especially a newsletter as attractive and informative as this one certainly is. In addition, we've hired a consultant to update our very outdated website.



Having both these means of communicating with the membership and the general public will be of great advantage to the League and will help publicize all that we do to encourage voting and develop an informed electorate within the city.

Our next few months will be especially busy as we get ready for the upcoming elections. We'd expected to have sent out questions to candidates for our Voters' Guides right after the original filing deadline of February 22, and also to have begun preparations for our candidate forums. But because of the ongoing redistricting controversy, we're still waiting to know the boundaries of the new state legislative districts and to find out who will be the candidates. The new deadline for candidates to file is April 15—fingers crossed that this will be the final deadline!

Barring yet another upsurge in Covid-19, we're looking forward to holding our Annual Meeting at Gertrude's on June 8. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to get together in person once again in order to elect officers, approve a budget, and develop plans for the coming year, as well as enjoy good food and each other's company.

I hope you'll put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Sincere thanks, as always, to the many League members who've made it possible for the League to continue to be as active and visible within the Baltimore community as we have been during the past year.

IN THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE LEAGUE

TREASURER'S NOTES

INTRODUCING

THE LEAGUE IN THE CITY

VOTER EDUCATION

VOTER REGISTRATION

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Board of Directors

LWV Baltimore City

President: Eleanor Green
 1st Vice President Billie Roberts Spann
 2nd Vice President VACANT
 3rd Vice President Argentine Craig
 Secretary Lu Pierson
 Treasurer Barbara Dent

DIRECTORS

Sherry Phillips Teresa Leslie
 Deanna Ikhinmwin Vickiana Franco
 Sam Novey Mary Ellen Vanni

Office Administrator: Makeda Scott



Treasurer's Note

by Barbara Dent, Treasurer

ARE YOU UP-TO-DATE WITH YOUR DUES?

In order to be considered in good standing and eligible to vote in LWV matters, members must pay annual dues (\$60 for individuals or \$85 for two members of the same household, except for Life and Student members who are excused from paying dues.)

To remain in good standing, folks must renew their membership on the anniversary of their previous payment. So, for example, if someone joins on October 1 of 2021, they should renew by October 1 of 2022.

Prior to the anniversary of their previous payment, members should receive an email notification that it is time to renew. Please respond promptly so your membership does not lapse. If you have any question about the status of your membership and when you last paid dues, please contact Barbara Dent, Treasurer, at bkdent@mac.com.

Membership payments may be made by checks made out to LWV Baltimore City and sent in to the office or online at Individual or Household.

DONATIONS TO THE SADIE CROCKIN MEMORIAL FUND

The Sadie Crockin Memorial Fund is the tax-exempt arm of the LWV of Baltimore City. Contributions to the Fund, classified as a public charity, are tax-deductible under the Internal Revenue Code. The Fund supports the educational activities of our League – especially voter registration events, publication of the Voters' Guide and Guide to Elected Officials, and candidate forum expenses.

To maintain the integrity of the Fund, it has its own bank account. Therefore, contributions to the fund must be made separately from payments to the general LWV account (which supports general operating expenses such as rent and office expenses, salary for the Office Administrator, etc.).

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Sadie Crockin Memorial Fund, please send a separate check made out to the Fund to the LWV office or donate online at [SCF](#).

Thank you to our many members who have made such donations in the past. Your support is essential in helping us achieve our goals.



DONATE

Introducing: New to the Board and League

Makeda Y. Scott LWV's **Office Administrator**



Makeda Scott received a B.A. degree in communications from St. Augustine University in Raleigh, N.C. After graduation, she attended Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Ga. When she returned to Baltimore City, Makeda utilized her exceptional journalistic skills as a Commissioner on the Maryland Transportation Board, a member of the American Red Cross Disaster Team, a member of the National Association of Journalists, and as a senior campaign strategist for a candidate seeking to become Baltimore City's mayor.

As an effective communication leader and public affairs diplomat, Makeda accomplished many achievements at the following sites:

WSB-TV Channel 2 (Atlanta, Ga.), Enterprise Foundation (Columbia, Md.), American Federation of State and County Municipal Employees (AFSCME), The British Embassy (Washington, D.C.), Congressman John Sarbanes' Office (Washington, D.C.), and PTA president at an elementary school in Owings Mills, Md.

The historic election of Makeda Scott in 2018 as the first Black female chairperson of Baltimore County's Board of Education is a tribute to her leadership, vision, and dedication to service. Makeda Scott is a proud member of the Emerge Maryland organization, the Women's Campaign School at Yale (Yale School of Law), Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and FiveStar Women of Color.

Currently, she is the office administrator at the League of Women Voters of Baltimore City.



Sam Novey- Board Member Baltimore Votes Term 2021-2023

Sam Novey lives in Abell with his wife Becky and son Gary. Professionally he is Visiting Fellow at the SNF Agora Institute and a Consulting Community Scholar at the University of Maryland Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement. He also co-founded the Baltimore Votes Coalition. He is a member of Beth Am synagogue and an avid cyclist!

Vickiana Franco- Board Member

US Army Warrant Officer,
MPS Student UMBC
Community Leadership
Term 2021-2023



I am a career military member with 19 years in the US Army. I am currently attending UMBC's Community Leadership Master's program with the goal of continuing community service when I retire. I am excited to serve the League and the city in this position.

Introducing: New to the Board and League



Sherry Phillips - Board Member

Term 2021-2023

Sherry lives in Charles Village and owns her own bookkeeping business, which gives her time and flexibility to volunteer. She has helped run a girls’ mentoring program in the Sandtown-Winchester area of West Baltimore City for the last twenty years and is now serving on the LWV Baltimore City Board. She especially likes setting up at events, festivals, libraries, etc. to help register people to vote. Sherry loves the beach, reading, taking walks, visiting museums and exploring our beautiful country with a goal of visiting all 50 states in her lifetime (she’s over half way there!). She is happy to be a League member and to be given the opportunity to use her time and talents for strengthening our Democracy.

<p>Teresa Leslie Board Member Term 2021-2023</p>	<p>Mary Ellen Vanni Board Member Term 2021-2023</p>
---	--



Toni Moore-Duggan- Chair DEI Committee

I have a Bachelors in Nursing from Notre Dame University and Masters in Science in Organizational Development from the Johns Hopkins University and a graduate of the University of Maryland Nurse Practitioner Program. I also hold graduate certificates from the Johns Hopkins in Change Management and Leadership. Most of my professional practice is with working and advocating for the underserved. Having taught graduate and undergraduate studies, I presently serve on the Faculty of the Caroline Center teaching ladies in the inner city entry level nursing skills to enter the field of health care.

I am a Spiritual Director and serve in leadership of the Racial Justice Circle facilitating Antiracism through Honest Conversations about Race throughout Maryland.

I presently serve as Chair of the DEI Committee for the Baltimore City League of Women Voters.

WELCOME NEW LEAGUE MEMBERS

Ilene Cohen
Alisya Davis

Rosalie Dance
Tasmin Swanson
Margaret Cohen

Kathryn Brignole
Joyce Chapman

THE LEAGUE IN THE CITY

Open Works Satellite Office

by Sam Novey, Director

The League of Women Voters of Baltimore City has opened a second office in the Open Works community at 1400 Greenmount Avenue! This office will accomplish key objectives for our League. It will complement and supplement the York Road office by establishing a presence in a Baltimore City co-working space in an area that attracts Baltimoreans of all ages and races. It will also help us restart social events as Covid recedes. We plan to use our office on Greenmount for LWV social and civic events to engage existing members, encourage them to engage their friends, and attract other members of the community to join LWV.

We hope that regularly using this space in Baltimore City for events signals a new kind of commitment to our community that will help retain existing members while attracting new ones. We plan to have an office opening party in April, more details to follow - join us!

Open Works is a vibrant co-working space that welcomes and promotes grassroots businesses and organizations. In honor of Women's History Month, Open Works conducted an interview with several Board members to highlight more about the League's history, mission, and initiatives in the City. It was a great way for the Board to reflect on its impact and how the organization has changed over the last 100 years. You can see the full interview [here](#).



Board Director Sherry Phillips being interviewed



League Board Members waiting to be interviewed



Open Works communal lounge

VOTER EDUCATION

THE TIME IS NOW

by Deanna Ikhinmwin, Voter Registration & Recruitment Chair

Time is Now Grant, Voter Ambassador Program, and Spring High School Voter Registration Festivals-

In 2020, the League of Women Voters (LWV) Baltimore City received a \$5,000.00 grant to implement an in-person high school Voter Ambassador program entitled **The Time Is Now**. This Saturday program is a partnership between the LWV, Baltimore City College high school (BCC), and Mergenthaler (Mervo) high school.

During this program, high school students will be engaged in creative activities, where they will receive a thorough understanding of the local, state, and national election process. When the Voter Ambassador program ends, the high school participants will educate their peers about forthcoming elections and encourage their friends and classmates to register to vote.



Meri Robie-Craven and Megan Shook educate BCC students on the National government process



BCC students provide feedback on The Time is Now program of instruction

High School Voter Ambassadors' Program Details

Requirements:

1. Attend five (5) Saturday training sessions
2. Location- the League of Women Voter's office (6600 York Road # 211)
3. Time- 10:00 am until 1:00 pm

Student Tasks:

1. Create voter registration activities at Baltimore City College and Mer Vo high schools
2. Partner with student organizations to create voter registration campaigns
3. Organize a massive Voter Registration Festival during the 2022 Spring semester

Time Line:

1. Fall, 2021--- Recruited ten (10) Baltimore City College high school student volunteers to participate in the five (5) voter registration components.

Three components were presented in October and two sessions were held in November. After completing the five (5) voter registration components, the Baltimore City College high school students are certified to register their peers to become voters.

2. Spring, 2022----- Recruited ten (10) Mervo high school students who will participate in the Voter Ambassador program. The five (5) program components will take place at Mervo high school during March and April. After the completion of the five (5) voter registration components, the Mervo high school students will be certified to register their peers to become voters.

The Fall and Spring Student Incentives:

1. Round trip bus passes to League of Women Voters' office
2. Five (5) Saturday free lunches
3. Seventy-five (75) service-learning hours
4. City of Baltimore Certificate of Recognition
5. Voter ambassador award
6. League of Women Voters' giveaways

VOTER EDUCATION

LEAGUERS IN THE LIBRARY

by Paige Bacon-Ortiz, LWV Balt City Volunteer

At the January committee meeting, the Registration Committee decided to partner with the Enoch Pratt Free Library system in a program called Leaguers in the Library.

The goal/purpose of Leaguers in the Library is to ensure voter information and voter registration is more local and accessible. Of the 21 Enoch Pratt Free Library Branches, 12 expressed definite interest in having someone from the LWV available and visible within their branch. Ultimately the goal is registering first time Baltimore City Voters. In addition, we are there to answer questions (Can I vote if I have a felony conviction? - Yes. Can I vote if I am unhousted? - Yes. Do I have to wait until I am 18 to register to vote? - No.) and promote the LWV as a resource for voter information.

Currently we are up and running in 9 libraries and still recruiting volunteers for the Orleans St., Pennsylvania Ave and Walbrook branches. Volunteers tend a table for 2 hours in March, April, May, and June in preparation for the July primary and November general election. We provide forms, signage, and our smiling faces; the library provides a space, a table and marketing.

This is a long-range project and hopefully before the Presidential elections of 2024, we will be in all 21 branches on a monthly (maybe even a weekly) basis and communities will know that they can register to vote at their local library. Project lead and volunteer, Paige Bacon-Ortiz, is in contact with other local organizations to recruit volunteers to join us in this effort.

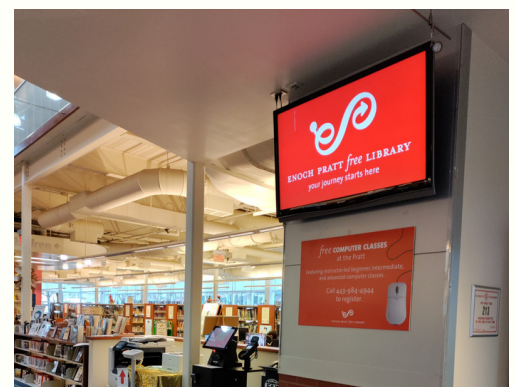
Libraries That Expressed Interest:

Forest Park
 Govans
 Hamilton
 Hampden
 Light Street
 Northwood
 Orleans Street- **no volunteer yet**
 Pennsylvania Avenue- **no volunteer yet**
 Reisterstown
 Southeast Anchor
 Walbrook- **no volunteer yet**
 Waverly

Please contact Paige Bacon-Ortiz (spaigebacon@live.com) with any questions and to volunteer.



Board Member, Vickiana Franco, with daughter at the Light St Branch Library



VOTER EDUCATION

FOR THE 3RD TIME

by Argentine S. Craig, Director

As part of the Mission of the League of Women Voters of Baltimore City (LWV/BC), to “Defend Democracy and Empower Voters” members registered 1,965 students enrolled in fifteen high schools and the Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) during the 2018-2020 school years.

For the third time, LWV/Baltimore City has been awarded a FY22 Youth Voter Registration Grant of \$700 from the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWV/EF) to register and provide voter education/information to students in the Baltimore City Public High Schools and to students at BCCC.

Since notification of the award in January 2022, twelve members (Barbara Corbin, Deanna Ikhinmwin, Valerie Dubin, Suzy Filbert, Eleanor Green, Norma Cohen, Arlene Ogurick, Pat Laidlaw, Sam Novey, Lissa Rotunda, Dawn Lettman and Argentine Craig) have enthusiastically volunteered to work in teams. While at the schools, they register the students, meet with cooperating teachers and give them a copy of the US Constitution, Guide to Elected Officials and the 2022 Voters’ Guide.

To date, we have contacted fourteen schools, held voter education/information in three classrooms, collected seven Election Judge applications, conducted a Voter Education/Registration Workshop.

We have confirmed dates in April with four schools: 19th, 20th, 29th.

If interested and available to be part of a Voter Education/Registration Project Team during April/May/June, please contact me.

In League Solidarity

Argentine S. Craig

ascraig@comcast.net

LWV/Baltimore City Project Coordinator

VOTER REGISTRATION



League Member Paige Bacon registers voters at the St Patrick's Day Parade

LWV Baltimore City volunteers registered voters at the St Patrick's Day Parade on March 13th. The table was located at the corner of Charles and Hamilton. The registration event was co-sponsored by LWV Baltimore City, Side with Love/UU the Vote, and Baltimore Votes.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY IS MOVED TO JULY 19, 2022!!!

2022 Elections - when we vote for Governor, Lt. Governor, Maryland Comptroller, Maryland Attorney General, State's Attorney, members of the US Senate, and House of Representatives- has moved to Tuesday, July 19, 2022. The courts are still deliberating the redistricting maps. It is a good idea to get your mail-in ballot so you do not have to vote in person.

To vote by mail, you must request a mail-in ballot from the State Board of Elections or your local board. Your request for a mail-in ballot for the Primary Election must be received by July 12, 2022; and by November 1, 2022 for the General Election.

The Registration Committee is currently reaching out to Farmer's Markets, Senior Centers, Churches, and Neighborhood Associations to offer registration events leading up to the elections. If you are interested in support for your organization please contact:

Deanna Ikhinmwin, Voter Registration Chair,

Joyce Chapman, Voter Registration Co-Coordinator, jochapman23@yahoo.com

Vickiana Franco, Voter Registration Co-Coordinator, vfranco22@gmail.com

Upcoming Community Registration Event Requests: Volunteers Needed!

5 May: Reservoir Hill Improvement Council, Inc.

7 May 11am: Lake Walker Community Association

12pm: Mount Clare Community Council Registration

20 May 630pm: Maryland Center for History and Culture's exhibition opening

21 May 12-3pm: Young Successful Leaders, Inc/Edmonson Village Voter's Event

13 June 630pm: Rebuild Johnston Square neighborhood Org

15 June 8am: Family Survivor Network

12pm: Kevin L. Cooper Foundation

2 Jul 1130am: LCAP Inc.

-----COMMITTEE UPDATES-----

Please feel free to email the committees if you are interested in learning more and/or would like to get involved.

Membership Committee

Dr. Billie Roberts Spann, Chair,
drbspann@lwvbaltimorecity.org

Membership Committee's DEI Policy Statement:

In principle and in practice, diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the League's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

Membership Committee's Mission:

RECRUIT and RETAIN members by planning and coordinating special orientation events for new members and working with board members and committee chairs to match members. new and old, with opportunities for League involvement.

Upcoming Events

The Membership Committee is looking forward to hosting several events at our new satellite site at Open Works!

- *April 2022 (TBA) Grand Opening Gala at Open Works for current League members and guests
- *June (2022) Candidate Forum
- *July 2022 (TBA) Issue-oriented Membership Drive
- *September 2022 (TBA) Issue-oriented Membership Drive
- *October 2022 Candidate Forum
- *December 2022 (TBA) A HOLIDAY GATHERING

Nominating Committee

Eleanor Green, President,
elengre7@aol.com

Do you want an opportunity to do even more for an organization that you are already passionate about? Consider serving on the Board of Directors. The League will be electing candidates to several positions at the Annual Board Meeting on June 8th. Persons in these positions will serve for two years.

The League thanks Gail Sunderman for her leadership as last year's Nominating Committee Chair. She has been an active member of the city league for over 20 years, served as co-president, on the board, and on numerous committees and studies. We thank her for her tireless dedication and support. Her leadership and initiative will be missed.

Nominations are due April 8th:

Two-year positions beginning in June: **Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Secretary, Four Directors, and one member of the Endowment Management Committee.** Persons in these positions will **serve for two years.** We are also looking for a **chair and three members** of next year's **Nominating Committee** for a **one-year term.**

If you are interested in any of these positions or know of a League member who might be interested, please get in contact with the Nominating Committee Chair: Flo Valentine, flosunshine@hotmail.com

Upcoming Events

All trainings and meetings held over Zoom.

Please contact admin@lwvbaltimorecity.org to confirm meeting dates!

**For more information on Committees and Events,
please visit www.lwv-baltimorecity.org**

April 19 9:00 LWVMD Workshop for DEI on Zoom

April 22 12:00 County League Event: Maryland State Education
Superintendent on Zoom

May 3 5:30 Board Meeting on Zoom

June 8 Annual Meeting at Gertrude's

June 23-26 National League Convention in Denver

July 7-14 Early Voting for Primary Election

July 19 Primary Elections

Thank you to all of our
newsletter contributors!

- Vickiana Franco, Newsletter Editor



The League of Women Voters of Baltimore City

6600 York Rd., Suite 211

Baltimore, Md. 21212-2024

Tel: 410-377-7738 email: info@lwvbaltimorecity.org